



USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 1964

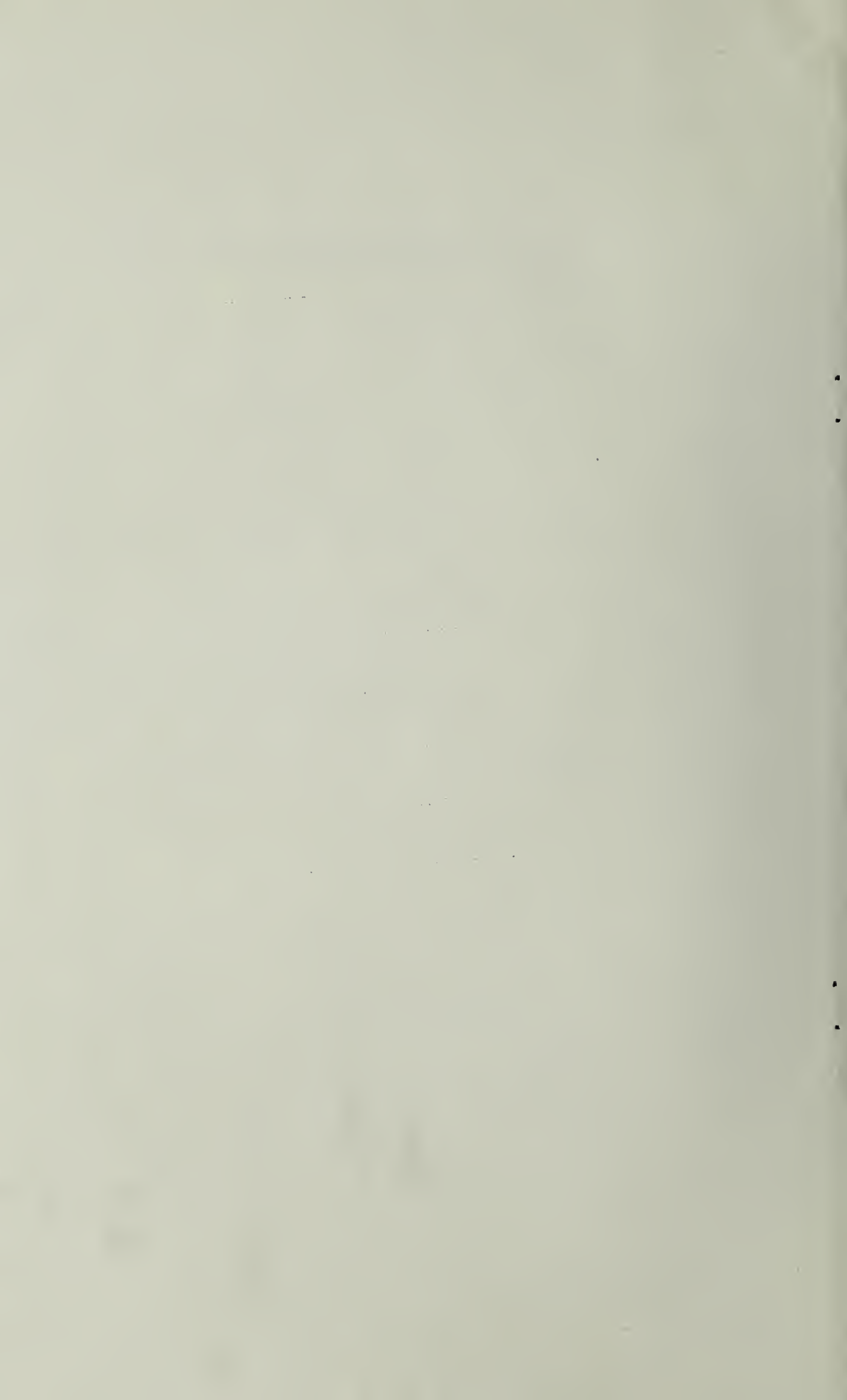
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SURVEYOR & CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BRIDGE STREET,
USK.....MON.



USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ASSISTANT SURVEYOR & ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

* W.L. DAVIES, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., C. & G., FULL TECH., R.P.

* Joint with Pontypool R.D.C.

1964

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

"Your life in your hands."

We all know that the prevailing pattern of ill-health differs from that of the past. Modern medicines, public health services and better living conditions have made possible the control of diseases such as diphtheria and tuberculosis etc. Nevertheless, man will always be faced with more or less important diseases and disorders caused by his environment and it is unrealistic to expect that everyone should enjoy perfect health. However, there is much that can be done now, both by the individual and the community, to raise even the present general level of health.

In 1964 there were 26 deaths in the Usk Urban District and 21 of these occurred over the age of 55 years due mainly to chronic conditions. Of these conditions, the circulatory group of diseases still occupied pride of place. The increasing number of deaths in this group is not entirely due to a rise in the number of old people in the community and improved diagnosis but also because of a real increase in the incidence of these diseases. Cigarette smoking, lack of physical exercise, gross obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes mellitus appear to be pre-disposing factors and these can be controlled by the individual.

Diabetes Mellitus is a disease of the affluent society and fifty years ago it was more or less confined to the rich. During the second world war its incidence declined in these countries with food rationing. Today, with greater food consumption, more obesity and less physical activity, it is estimated that there are nearly 15 diabetics in every 1000 populations. The disease occurs mainly in the second half of life and many people aged 45 years and over have unrecognised diabetes. It is a disease which may exist for a long time before symptoms appear but its early detection is an important public health measure and this is now possible with a simple urine test. Its diagnosis can then be followed by suitable treatment. The discovery of insulin some 40 years ago changed the outlook for the diabetic but diet is still the mainstay of all methods of treatment and exercise is also important if diabetes is to be controlled. It is a typical example of a disease which can be controlled by individual and community action.

Bronchitis is another chronic condition which has a crippling effect on the elderly. Although not widely recognised by the public it is the fourth commonest cause of death in this Country, coming only after heart disease, cancer and 'strokes'. Last year, nearly 40,000 people died in Britain from this cause alone. For every 3 people killed on the roads, 15 die from Bronchitis. Yet few people appreciate how serious this disease can be. We are fortunate in the Usk Urban District that only one person died from Bronchitis in 1964. It is essentially a disease caused by man himself and the way in which he chooses to live. There are 3 main contributory factors - smoking, air pollution and living conditions. Effective control depends on combined community and individual action.

Last year, 5 deaths (nearly 20%) occurred in the town due to some form of malignancy and 2 of these were attributed to cancer of the lung. Until recently, Cancer was regarded as inevitable in old age. It is still true that cancer deaths will continue to rise each year because of the increasing proportion of old people in the community; but we can now be reasonably optimistic that its mortality rate will decline in the not-so-distant future. Already there have been developments in virology and inevitably there will be new diagnostic techniques. In the public health field cancer prevention is important. In 1964, cytology clinics were established in various parts of Monmouthshire so that cancer of the



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cervix can be detected in women in their pre-cancerous stage. When such clinics are generally available it will be possible to prevent the 2,800 deaths caused by this disease each year in Britain. This will be a wonderful achievement. It may soon be possible to apply similar methods to detect pre-malignant conditions in other parts of the body e.g. examination of the urine to determine the presence or absence of cancer of the bladder. Meanwhile, health education will continue to play a vital part in the prevention of cancer but although the association between lung cancer and cigarette smoking is now almost universally accepted, it is not so easy to persuade the habitual smoker to throw away his cigarettes.

The standards of acceptable health have naturally risen along with medical progress and with improved living standards the community has become more concerned with less serious diseases. An example of this is the increasing awareness by the community of the need to care for the nation's feet. There is now a very well attended and popular chiropody clinic at Usk. Chiropody gives much relief to the elderly but for them it can only be a repair operation for the damage done in youth. Medical Officers of Health have been and are well aware of the problem of ill-fitting shoes but the dictates of fashion so far, reign supreme. Chiropody within the school health service should be encouraged but this is impossible so long as chiropodists are in short supply.

Mortality statistics, as shown in this report, serve to illustrate the increasing challenge of geriatrics. At the same time, one must not disregard infant mortality, particularly the perinatal deaths. We are very fortunate in Usk that, once again, we have had no deaths under 4 weeks of age, (unlike 1961 which was a very black year). It is difficult to attribute this good fortune to any one particular reason but a study of Usk's mortality statistics generally, over the years, seems to indicate a most healthy environment.

Peri-natal Mortality in Usk Urban District 1959-1964

Year	Number of First Week Deaths	Number of Still-Births	Peri-natal Mortality Rate
1964	-	-	-
1963	-	-	-
1962	-	-	-
1961	1	4	142.86
1960	-	-	-
1959	-	-	-

Peri-natal Mortality 1959-64

Usk Urban District, Pontypool Rural District and Monmouthshire County

Year	Usk Urban District	Pontypool Rural District	Monmouthshire County
1964	-	26.5	37.25
1963	-	30.12	35.82
1962	-	17.7	38.85
1961	142.86	25.79	39.9
1960	-	29.4	42.0
1959	-	33.9	47.7

The illegitimacy figures are going up each year. In 1964 the illegitimate birth rate for Usk was 6.25 % which is only slightly lower than the national average of 6.6%. Of course, one must remember that the actual numbers relating to Usk are small therefore percentage figures are subject to wide variations. Generally, it is true to say that many of these unmarried mothers are under 20 years of age and most of them are a prey to anxiety and a sense of guilt. More than half of their babies are adopted and one feels that much can be done to help the mother who would prefer to keep her baby if only circumstances allowed her to do so, e.g. the provision of suitable accommodation at an economic rent and even far more important the support of understanding and forgiving parents. Illegitimacy does not have to remain a social problem but it does seem to indicate some weakness in our present system of education of the adolescent both in and out of school.

VITAL STATISTICS - 1964

Area	655 acres
Estimated Population	1990
Number of inhabited houses	620
(according to Rate Book on 31.12.64)	
Rateable Value	£45,312
1d Rate	£167

1964

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	11	19	30
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	13	19	32

<u>LIVE BIRTH RATE</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
per 1000 population	16.1	18.76	18.4
Comparability Factor	=	1.07	
Adjusted live birth rate	=	16.1 x 1.07	
	=	17.23	
" " " " County	=	19.14	

<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

<u>STILL-BIRTH RATE</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
per 1000 live & still-births	-	21.24	16.3

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
All Causes	14	12	26

<u>Death rate per 1000 population</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
	13.06	11.16	11.3
Comparability factor	=	1.14	
Adjusted death rate	=	13.06 x 1.14	= 14.89
" " " County	=	12.95	

<u>DEATHS FROM CANCER</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	2	3	5
<u>DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER</u>	2	-	2
<u>DEATHS DUE TO PREGNANCY, CHILD-BIRTH, ABORTION</u>	= 0		
<u>Maternal Mortality Rate</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	
(Rate per 1000 live & still-births)	-	-	

INFANT MORTALITY

<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
(Rate per 1000 total live births)	31.3	28.59	20.0
<u>Neonatal Mortality Rate - first 4 weeks</u>			
(Rate per 1000 total live births)	31.3	18.34	
<u>Early Neonatal Mortality Rate-under 1 wk</u>	-	16.35	
<u>Perinatal Mortality</u>			
(Still-births & infant deaths under 1 wk)			
(per 1000 total live & still-births)	-	26.5	

Causes of Death at different periods of life during 1964 in Usk Urban District

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 wks	4 wks & under 1 year	Age in Years										
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+		
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	M	2									1	1			
	F	-													
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	M	-													
	F	3								2	1				
Vascular Lesions Nervous System	M	1											1		
	F	4										2	2		
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	3									2	1			
	F	-													
Other Heart Disease	M	1										1			
	F	2											2		
Other Circulatory Disease	M	-													
	F	1											1		
Influenza	M	2									1		1		
	F	-													
Pneumonia	M	-													
	F	1											1		
Bronchitis	M	1											1		
	F	-													
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	M	1										1			
	F	-													
Nephritis and Neprosis	M	1										1			
	F	-													
Other Defined & illdefined diseases	M	-													
	F	1		1											
All other accidents	M	2				1	1								
	F	-													

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATH (according to Age & Sex)

Age Group	Male	Female
Under 4 weeks	-	1
4 weeks & under 1 year	-	-
1 year -	-	-
5 years -	1	-
15 years -	1	-
25 years -	-	-
35 years -	-	-
45 years -	-	2
55 years -	4	1
65 years -	5	2
75 years +	3	6
TOTAL	14	12

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFIED	Pulmonary	<u>M</u>	O.	<u>F</u>	O.	Non Pulmonary	<u>M</u>	O.	<u>F</u>	O.	
DEATHS	"	<u>M</u>	O.	<u>F</u>	O.	"	"	<u>M</u>	O.	<u>F</u>	O.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

Classified according to age and sex

Disease	Sex	Age					Total
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25	
Diphtheria	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	M	4	18	-	-	-	22
	F	6	12	-	-	-	18
Whooping Cough	M	-	1	-	-	-	1
	F	-	2	-	-	-	2
Poliomyelitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALL-POX

Numbers Vaccinated

AGE GROUP	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Under 1 yr	7	12	15	17	20	22	18	15	13	3	-
1 - 4 yrs	5	5	11	2	7	2	5	4	42	5	11
5 - 14 yrs	-	2	4	1	3	1	2	5	212	2	-
15 yrs +	6	-	7	12	10	7	4	6	639	2	-
TOTAL	18	19	37	32	40	32	29	30	906	12	11

In addition, there were 2 revaccinations.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA & WHOOPING COUGH

Numbers Immunised

AGE GROUP	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	
Under 5 yr	29	20	39	38	17 20	13 14	9 10	39 30 29	30 29 30	36 48 40	60 59 55	Diptheria Whoop. Tet.
5-14yrs	66	11	22	6	24	1	1 1	5 2 2	- - 2	2 2 3	10 10 15	Diptheria Whoop. Tet.
TOTAL	95	31	61	44	41 20	14 14	10 11	44 32 31	30 29 32	38 50 43	70 69 70	Diptheria Whoop. Tet.

In addition, there were 18 "Booster" injections of Diptheria Prophylactic given, 16 of Whooping Vaccine and 13 of Tetanus.

Yours faithfully,

S.M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Old Market Street,
Usk.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my report of the work carried out in the district during the year 1964.

INSPECTIONS

Infectious Diseases	2
Houses	62
Re-inspections	25
Improvement Grants	24
Council Houses	52
Nuisances	14
Premises where food is prepared and sold	16
Factories and Workshops	13
Public Conveniences	16
Water Supplies	30
Refuse Collection and Disposal	51
Miscellaneous	121
Sewerage and Drainage	36
Sewage Works	24
Roads	30
Street Lighting	14
Cattle Market	18
Slaughterhouse	131
Shops, Offices & Railway Premises	18
Petroleum Licensing	9

OVERCROWDING

Very little overcrowding exists in Usk. This is due to the fact that persons living in apartments in overcrowded conditions have been given priority by the Council when council-houses become vacant. No council-houses were erected during the past year.

CARAVANS

A few caravans were stationed in the district during the year, but only for a very short period.

The only ground used for caravan purposes is the market ground which is used solely for the accommodation of caravans during the Annual Trinity Fair. Water supply and sanitation are provided.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year
 - (i) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts. 86
 - (b) Number of inspections made for its purpose 120
 - (ii) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation -
2. Remedy of defects during the year without Servicing of Formal Notice

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 8
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year
 - (i) Proceedings under the Housing Act 1957
 - (a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs -
 - (b) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made -
 - (c) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made -
 - (d) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice -
 - (ii) Proceedings under the Public Health Act
 - (a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6
 - (b) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice
 - (i) By owners 6
 - (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners -

WATER SUPPLY

The Town is served by the Pontypool Water Company's Undertaking and with the exception of four houses, which are distant from the mains, all houses have piped water supply. Twenty-four samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories and were found to be satisfactory in all cases. The Water Company maintained a constant supply of water to the Town throughout the year, despite the prolonged dry weather, and subsequent restrictions in other places.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The majority of houses in the district are connected to the Town sewers. The sewage disposal plant deals with all sewage and is operating successfully, though very regular attention is required at the pumping station in connection with pump maintenance, and also some difficulty is caused with the removal and disposal of sewage sludge.

RODENT CONTROL

The sewers are treated twice each year and no heavy infestations have been reported.

The sewage disposal works and refuse tip are regularly treated to keep any infestation to a minimum. During the year 30 properties were inspected and treated for minor infestations.

FOOD HYGIENE

In general the premises are satisfactory and a good standard is maintained. However, in view of the limited time which the officers can spend in the Urban District, a very close supervision is not possible at present.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES ACT, 1957. Slaughter of Animals (Amendment Act)

There is only one slaughterhouse in the area.

Number of carcasses inspected and condemned

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Sheep/Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Calves</u>
Number killed	68	503	119	4
Number inspected	68	503	119	4
% Inspected	100	100	100	100

All Diseases (except Tuberculosis)

Whole carcass condemned	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	42

Tuberculosis Only

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil
No. of visits for meat inspection	131

MILK DISTRIBUTION AND DAIRY PREMISES

Particulars of dairies and dairy premises on the register at 31st Dec. 64.

Dairies	2
Milk Distributors	4

There are no pasteurising or sterilising plants in the area. One dairy has a small bottling and washing plant kept in a clean and satisfactory condition. Both dairies and vehicles are satisfactory.

HOUSING - IMPROVEMENTS

During the year the Council approved three Standard Grant applications.

Every encouragement is given to owners of suitable properties to improve and modernise their houses. The raising of the general level of older housing accommodation is well worthwhile.

The 1964 Act which came into operation in August increased the maximum standard grant to £350.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS

There was some increase in private house building during the year, and 33 plans were submitted to the Council for consideration. 123 private dwellings have been erected since 1945.

PETROLEUM LICENSING

There are four premises in the district where petroleum spirit is stored. Nine visits to these premises were made during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

A weekly collection is in operation and is carried out on behalf of the Council by the Pontypool Rural District Council. This causes no complications as the responsible officers are employed jointly by the two Councils.

All tipping is carried out at the tip on the outskirts of the town. The conditions of the tip have improved considerably due to the hiring of a bulldozer. The problem of having to dispose of considerable quantities of paper and card is causing some concern and difficulty.

FACTORIES ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2,3,4,6, are to be enforced by the Local Authority	4	5	-	-
(2) Factories not included in above in which sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	7	8	-	-
(3) Other premises in which sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	13	-	-

FACTORIES ACT

2. Cases in which defects were found.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to by H.M.I.	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)</u>				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).....	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	-

Outworkers Nil

Steady progress has been made during the year.

The Council House painting programme mentioned in last Year's Annual Report, has satisfactorily been carried out.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
H. PEARSON, A.M.I.S.E., M.A.P.H.I., A.F.S. (Eng).
Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector.

